

**Iowa Council on Homelessness**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 22, 2005**

**Voting Members Present:**

Allan Axeen – HACAP	Anne Kinzel – Selzer & Company
Virginia Beane – Attorney General’s Office	Gordon Miller – Department of Public Safety
Bill Brand – Department of Human Rights	Ray Morley – Department of Education
Anne Brown – Department of Corrections	Patrick Nestvedt – Catholic Charities
Christine Canganelli – Shelter House	Loyd Ogle – Iowa Finance Authority
Kelli Foltz – Department of Veteran Affairs	Judy Songer – SIEDA Community Action
Diane Foss – Dept. of Economic Development	Janell Staats – MATURA Action Corporation
Ellen Fritz – Dept. of Workforce Development	Nicki Stajcar – Department of Elder Affairs
Jeff Gronstal – Department of Public Health	Bob Steben – Department of Veteran Affairs
Ann Hearn – Linn County Community Services	Donald Tyne – Linn County Veteran’s Affairs
Steffani Hicok – Cedar Valley Friends of the Family	

**Voting Members Absent:**

Amy Correia – Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence	Alice Mollett – Crossroads Women’s Shelter
Mario Hayslett – Criminal Justice Ministries	Kate Ridge – John Lewis Coffee Shop
Bill Holvoet – Community Action of SE Iowa	Lila P.M. Starr – Department of Human Services
Amy Knudsen – Iowa Coalition for Housing & Homeless	Dean Wright – Drake University

**Others Present:**

Jean Brown – Churches United Shelter	Ellen Mathes – Veterans Administration
Joan Christensen – Broadlawns Medical Center	Jim McWeany – INJL
David Eberbach – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Craig Mosher – NE Ia Community Action
Julie Eberbach – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Al Motley – Social Security Administration
Linda Grathwohl – Iowa Legal Aid	Matt Otte – Community Mental Health PATH Program
Deidre Henriquez – Primary Health Care	Rick Schloemer – Scott County Housing Cluster
David Hicks – Youth & Shelter Services	Paul Stanfield – Home Connection
	Ed Thomas – Department of Education

**Iowa Finance Authority Staff:**

Dennis Dietz – Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs	Lyle Schwery – Homeless Programs Coordinator
Shawna Lode – Communications Director	Karen Stanton – Administrative Assistant

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**Call to Order & Introduction**

**Motion:** On a motion by Ann Brown, seconded by Virginia Beane, the Council unanimously agreed to have Lyle Schwery chair the meeting in the absence of the officers.

Acting Chairman Schwery called the July 22, 2005 meeting of the Iowa Council for Homelessness to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions were made by those present at the host site and at the remote ICN locations.

### **ICN Etiquette Overview**

Mr. Schwery stressed the importance of those arriving late to introduce themselves to receive credit for attending the meeting. He also requested those with cell phones or pagers to turn them off. Mr. Schwery asked members to wait for recognition from the secretary/acting chair before speaking and to introduce themselves once they have been acknowledged.

### **Approvals**

#### **July 22, 2005 Agenda**

Chairman Schwery introduced the agenda for the July 22, 2005 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Nicki Stajcar, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously approved the July 22, 2005 Council meeting agenda.

#### **May 20, 2005 Minutes**

Chairman Schwery introduced the minutes for the May 20, 2005 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Jeff Gronstal, seconded by Kelly Foltz, the Council unanimously approved the May 20, 2005 Council meeting minutes.

### **Executive Committee Report**

A report was not available for the Executive Committee.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

A report was not available for the Nominating Committee. Chairman Schwery did report that the stipend request for the Council member representing persons with homelessness experience has now been included in IFA's current budget. Any one requesting this stipend will need to contact Lyle Schwery.

Motion: On a motion by Diane Foss, seconded by Ray Morley, the Council unanimously approved to table the motion to elect Mike Wood to the Council to represent persons with prior experience of homelessness that was submitted in the May 20, 2005 meeting to the next Council meeting on September 16, 2005.

### **Continuum of Care Committee Report**

A report was not available for the Continuum of Care Committee.

### **Policy and Public Awareness Committee Report**

Christine Canganelli, Chair of the Policy and Public Awareness Committee, reported the Committee met to review the recent Homeless Assistant Grant Program Awards. The Committee added bonus points to the projects that offered emergency shelter beds. The results of adding these points to the existing scoring system did not make a measurable difference. This factor seems to be already taken into consideration. No change will be suggested at this time.

The Committee will be presenting to the Council a recommended legislative agenda for the upcoming year at the September meeting. Please e-mail any ideas and recommendations to Lyle Schwery or Christine Canganelli as soon as possible.

The Committee revisited the concept of an annual newsletter and would like to proceed with this project. Amy Correia has volunteered to assist with this project. If anyone else would like to help, please contact

Christine Canganelli. The Communications Director of the Iowa Finance Authority, Shawna Lode, has volunteered to help with the newsletter.

The Committee has been finalizing the draft of the 10-year plan.

Ray Morley informed Council of a short video, 'In Their Own Voices, Homelessness in America' that was distributed to all of the area education regions last year that is a good educational tool.

Mr. Morley presented to the Council a CD (a slide show with an accompanying song) which is intended to introduce homelessness topics. Would the Council like to prepare something similar to educate our legislators incorporating actual Iowa statistics? The producers of the presentation would allow the Council to use whatever is necessary to create Iowa's personalized version. Iowa needs products like these two presentations to educate the public about our homeless needs.

Diane Foss suggested this would be a great tool to assist the Iowa Housing Trust Fund to educate our legislators.

Mr. Morley thought some of the McKinney money could be used to work on this project with help from other agencies.

Mr. Morley asked for input on who should receive a copy of this presentation. Judy Songer requested the Local Homeless Coordinating Boards to be put on the list. It was also suggested that Continuum of Care Boards and CAP agencies be added to the list. Christine Canganelli suggested putting this presentation in the hands of social studies curriculum directors to be incorporated into the mandatory Government class for seniors. It was suggested to ask for snapshots from emergency shelters around the state to really show Iowa's homeless plight.

Lyle Schwery asked for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to start working on this presentation.

Rose Wazny reported that the Department of Economic Development has staff that would have the technical knowledge and capabilities to work on the presentation.

### **Research and Analysis Committee Report**

Al Axeen, Chair of the Research and Analysis Committee, stated the Committee has been unable to meet since the last Council meeting.

### **Point in Time Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Lyle Schwery reported the Committee reviewed the suggestions that were received throughout the year concerning the last Point in Time Survey. One main concern was the difficulty in getting an accurate street count. Last year's form has been redesigned to alleviate this problem. The form has also been shortened and is much easier to read.

### **HMIS Committee Report**

David Eberbach, with the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances, updated the Council on the status of the AHAR report (Annual Homeless Assessment Report). Using the premise that the quality of the output is as good as the quality of the input, the Institute has been working hard to get all of the agencies to report data accurately. Preliminary results were shown to the Council by a presentation. The Institute tries to get a 95% accuracy rate in order to feel confident in the data quality.

Diane Foss emphasized the importance of the data that is submitted to the Institute. It is requested by Congress and ultimately assists the state in receiving more funding for homeless projects.

Julie Eberbach, with the Iowa Institute of Community Alliances, informed the Council of an opportunity for members to attend the HUD HMIS Conference. The Institute recommends the Council to send Julie Eberbach, David Eberbach, Matt Mendenhall, Eileen Mitchell, and Kari Hildring to this limited attendance conference.

Motion: On a motion by Ray Morley, seconded by Patrick Nestvedt, the Council unanimously approved the following people to attend the HUD HMIS Conference in September, 2005: Julie Eberbach, David Eberbach, Matt Mendenhall, Eileen Mitchell, and Kari Hildring.

### **Reports & Activities**

Lyle Schwery informed the Council that there is an updated list of the Local Homeless Coordinating Boards on the Iowa Finance Authority's web-site.

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children is having their annual conference in New Orleans, LA, on October 22-25, 2005. Anyone interested in attending will need to contact Lyle Schwery or refer to their web-site, [www.learning24-7.com](http://www.learning24-7.com).

### **Old Business**

None available for discussion.

### **New Business**

Diane Foss informed the Council that as of July 1, 2005, the Iowa Department of Economic Development has transferred the Iowa Homeless Assistance Grant Program to the Iowa Finance Authority. Lyle Schwery assured the Council that IFA will not make a lot of changes and the program will run just as smoothly as ever.

Ray Morley informed the Council that education entities are concerned about the need for longer term shelter care for adolescents in Iowa. One such program, The Promise Program in Marshalltown, is now available for teens for the duration of their high school years. Other models are available including the ChalleNGe Program which is a National Guard initiative.

Ed Thomas, a health and physical consultant for the state, informed the Council that the ChalleNGe Program is a workable program. He worked with the National Guard in Georgia building a shelter with the educational ChalleNGe Program. The ChalleNGe Program is based on a living, learning environment with a majority of funding coming from the federal government. More information is available on this program at [www.ngycp.org](http://www.ngycp.org).

Mr. Morley wanted to know if this type of program is something the Council wants to look at in helping Iowan's homeless young adults (16-19 year olds).

Mr. Thomas informed the Council that half the states in the nation have taken advantage of this federal opportunity. The funding for the states that do not wish to participate is then reverted to the states who do want to utilize the program. Georgia currently has 3 ChalleNGe Program sites.

Anne Kinsel suggested the ChalleNGe Program may help young adults who are phasing out of foster care.

Ray Morley asked for volunteers to review 11 local program grant applications from school districts across Iowa for homeless children and youth early this upcoming spring. These applications have a clear cut reviewing process. Anyone interested would need to contact Ray Morley.

**Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Schwery reminded the Board of the next Council meeting date, Friday, September 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: On a motion by Jeff Gronstal, seconded by Rose Wazny, the Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Council meeting at 11:22 am.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2005,

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Karen Winchester, Administrative Assistant  
Iowa Finance Authority

Lyle Schwery, Acting Chairman  
Iowa Council on Homelessness